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Agenda item 110 (e)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Third Committee (Part VI)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Victoria SANDRU (Romania)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Human rights questions: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item jointly with sub-items 110 (b), (c) and (d) at its 38th to 52nd meetings, on 14, 15, 18 to 22, 25 and 26 November 1996, and took action on the item at its 53rd meeting, on 26 November. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/51/SR.38-53).

3. For the documents before the Committee under this sub-item, see A/51/619.

4. At the 38th meeting, on 14 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/51/SR.38).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/51/L.42

5. At the 50th meeting, on 25 November, the representative of Ecuador, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Mexico, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay,

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* The report of the Committee on agenda item 110 will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/51/619 and Add.1-5.

Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Ukraine, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" (A/C.3/51/L.42). Subsequently, Austria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia, Spain and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Ecuador orally revised operative paragraph 3 by replacing the word "satisfaction" with the word "appreciation".

7. At its 53rd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, establishing the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Reaffirming its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[1]

Recalling its decision 50/465 of 22 December 1995, concerning the organization of work of the Third Committee and biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1996-1997, which includes in its programme of work the item entitled "Human rights questions: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights",

Recognizing, in accordance with resolution 48/141, the crucial and important role that the High Commissioner's functions play in removing the current obstacles and in meeting the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world, as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

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[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[2]

Stressing the importance of enabling the smooth running of the United Nations human rights machinery,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the effective promotion and protection of all human rights;

2. Encourages the High Commissioner to continue his activities in discharging his responsibilities under General Assembly resolution 48/141;

3. Expresses its appreciation for the constructive manner in which the High Commissioner is carrying out his functions;

4. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-second session under a sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

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[2] A/51/36; to be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36.